

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR:DJW
APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS

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P 110043Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301278

BRUSSELS FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, YO, US

SUBJECT: BILIC ATTACK ON NIXON

REF: BELGRADE 7885

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE CALLED IN AM-
BASSADOR BELOVSKI ON DECEMBER 10 TO PROTEST THE BILIC
STATEMENT REPORTED IN REFERENCE. ARMITAGE BEGAN BY
SAYING HE WANTED TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT A
PUBLIC STATEMENT OF A LEADING YUGOSLAV PARTY OFFICIAL
MADE ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LCY PRESIDIUM MEETING WHICH PRECEDED IMPORTANT PER-
SONNEL CHANGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA. ARMITAGE
NOTED THAT THE STATEMENT HAD NOT ONLY BEEN CARRIED
IN RADNICKE NOVINE BUT HAD BEEN BROADCAST BY THE
TANJUG DOMESTIC SERVICE AND PUBLISHED IN THE AUTHORI-
TATIVE DAILY NEWSPAPER POLITIKA. ARMITAGE CONTINUED
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THAT, IN THIS STATEMENT, WHICH WAS DISSEMINATED

THROUGHOUT YUGOSLAVIA BY RADIO AND PRESS, THERE IS A "DIRECT ATTACK" ON FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND AN ALLEGATION THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THEREBY THE USG PURSUED A POLICY OF THE "DISINTEGRATION OF YUGOSLAVIA" AND ADVOCATED SEPARATISM IN YUGOSLAVIA.

2. THIS ALLEGATION IS PREPOSTEROUS ON ITS FACE, ARMITAGE CONTINUED, BUT, MORE TO THE POINT, OUR GOVERNMENT FAILS COMPLETELY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT PURPOSE THIS UNFOUNDED CHARGE WAS INTENDED TO SERVE. "I WANT OFFICIALLY TO PROTEST THIS STATEMENT WHICH WE FIND NOT ONLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND MISCHIEVOUS BUT WHOLLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE EXPRESSED DESIRE OF THE GOY TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.," ARMITAGE DECLARED.

3. ARMITAGE CONCLUDED THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THIS UNWARRANTED PUBLIC ATTACK ON FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON.

4. BELOVSKI RESPONDED BY SUGGESTING RHETORICALLY THAT ARMITAGE COULD NOT EXPECT HIM TO MAKE A COMMENT NOW. BELOVSKI WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD NOT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, AS U.S. POLICY TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA IS WELL KNOWN AND DOCUMENTED. HE CONTINUED THAT FOR THIS REASON HE DID NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON ARMITAGE'S REPRESENTATION BUT HE AGREED TO CONVEY IT TO THE GOY. BELOVSKI SUGGESTED THAT HE WAS GENERALLY AWARE OF BILIC'S INTERVIEW BUT DOES NOT HAVE THE TEXT. BELOVSKI VOLUNTEERED THE VIEW THAT BILIC IS A "FUNCTIONARY" AND "SPEAKS ON HIS OWN." ROBINSON

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